REDUCTION OR REMISSION OF MUNICIPAL TAXES—REPRESENTATION REGARDING

300. Mr. P. Govinda Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) have Government or the Municipality of Ernakulam received representations for reduction or remission of municipal taxes on account of large numbers of houses having become vacant within the Municipality;

(*b*) if so, will Government be pleased to consider the question in view of the difficulty felt by a large number of house-owners?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government):*

(*a*) The Municipality of Ernakulam has received representations.

(*b*) The question is already receiving the attention of the Municipality.

EXPENDITURE ON THE LIVING CREATURES IN THE ZOO AT TRICHUR

301. Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) what is the expenditure on the living creatures kept in the zoo at Trichur, giving items of food;

(*b*) what are its establishment charges:

(*c*) what is the purpose of keeping it up;

(*d*) will Government consider abolishing it?

Mr. M. Raman Menon *(Offg. Diwan Peishkar):*

(*a*) The feeding expenditure on the living creatures kept in the State Zoo at Trichur during the current year is about Rs. 600 per month as stated below.—

Items of food and their cost for Kumbham 1117

		Rs.	A.	P.			Rs.	A.	P.
1.	Mutton	130	14	2	14.	Oil cake	58	9	6
2.	Beef	132	3	10	15.	Grass	16	5	1
3.	Plantains	49	13	0	16.	Leaves	52	2	0
4.	Milk	52	8	0	17.	Eggs	11	13	4
5.	Chama	0	1	6	18.	Rat snake	0	7	0
6.	Cocoanuts	1	8	0	19.	Frogs	0	0	6½
7.	Tapioca	3	12	0	20.	Rats	0	0	8
8.	Yam	1	13	0	21.	Grass hopper	23	9	6
9.	Boiled rice	9	9	4	22.	Fish	31	6	6
10.	Rice bran	1	4	10	23.	White ants	3	11	0
11.	Salt	3	0	9	24.	Bread	12	3	5
12.	Green gram	2	13	0	25.	Sabola	0	9	0
13.	Bengal gram	0	15	0	26.	Honey	0	9	0

(*b*) The establishment charges for a month is Rs. 74.

(*c*) The Zoo is a living Museum and serves the same purpose as the Museum. It has a highly educative value and is intended to supplement the education given in the schools and colleges.

(*d*) No.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* In view of the present shortage of food materials, does not Government think that a retrenchment will be necessary in the matter of expending the food materials on the living creatures of the Zoo?

Mr. M. Raman Menon *(Offg. Diwan Peishkar):* No.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* May I know who eats all these rat-snakes?

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* The King Cobra.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* Are the Government aware that in Madras all the dangerous animals were shot?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction):* That is for a different reason.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* How many wild animals have we got in the Zoo now?

Mr. M. Raman Menon *(Offg. Diwan Peishkar):* I want notice.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* Will the Government bestow some attention on this question?

Mr. M. Raman Menon *(Offg Diwan Peishkar):* On which question?

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* As regards the safety of the public from wild animals kept in the Zoo in case something happens.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* That question has been considered. In Madras, I understand that if anything untoward happens the police officers are instructed to enter the zoo and shoot wild animals.

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